



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA



Hamfest 2012

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W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
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The 2012 Charlotte Hamfest™, sponsored by MARS—W4BFB, is almost here. It's being held again this year at the Cabarrus Arena (4751 US Highway 49 North Concord, NC 28025), March 10th and 11th. As usual, there will be plenty to see and do. There will be vendors with the usual assortment of the latest gear and goodies to drool over. If you're looking for bargains, or just the right widget to complete your latest project, there will also be lots of flea market booths, all indoors.

There will be VE license sessions if you're ready to upgrade (...or want to give your non-ham friends a crash course and get them into the Technician

Class exam.) There will also be some great forums. Bob Allphin, K4UEE, co-leader of the Malpelo Island HK0NA DXpedition will be sharing the team's experience with attendees. In case you get tired of looking at and hearing about all the ham stuff, there'll also be Bingo.

The cost of all this fun is just \$7.00 in advance, or \$10.00 at the door. Your ticket not only gets you in, it gives you a chance to win hourly door prizes.

But wait, there's more: CDXA will have a booth, and we'll be raffling off a portable generator that handles 20 amps continuous output at 120V. It includes two AC sockets, and 12V terminals. Come by to visit, get a raffle ticket (\$2 ea. and \$5 for three), catch up with old friends, and make some new ones. We're also still looking for volunteers to staff the booth. Please use this link ([Shift sign up form](#)) for the automated sign-up form. You'll also get a special CDXA T shirt as a "Thank-You" for working the booth..



CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

Announcing the 2012 CDXA Hamfest Dinner

After a fun day at the Hamfest, join us at Carolina Prime Steakhouse for the Annual CDXA Hamfest Dinner. Available seats are filling up fast. Here are the details.

DATE: Saturday, March 10th

PLACE: Carolina Prime Steakhouse

ADDRESS: 225 East Woodlawn Road

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Social Mixer begins at 6:30PM (Cash Bar)

Dinner begins at 7:15 PM

Program with awards and prizes will start about 8:30 PM

The Grand Prize giveaway will be a YAESU FT-950 courtesy of Yaesu (Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV.)

DINNER CHOICES:

Prime Rib

Grilled Chicken Breast

Fresh Salmon

Honey Baby Back Ribs

ALL ABOVE SERVED WITH:

Soup

Choice of Caesar or Side Salad

Choice of potato or Steamed Vegetables

Bread

Soft Drink, Iced Tea or Coffee.

* VEGETARIAN MEAL (available upon request)

ALL MEAL CHOICES WILL BE \$23 (including tax and gratuity)

Please click on this [**link**](#) to RSVP.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through the CDXA website, to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.



GRAND PRIZE: FT-950



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a 10 inch tablet computer are on page 3 of the January Pileup: <http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1201.pdf>

Item 2: Here are the first reports for the 2012 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of January 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
N4ZC	Unlimited	215	40	255
K5EK	Unlimited	210	40	250
W2HTI	Unlimited	171	40	211
K4GHS	Unlimited	156	35	191
W4HG	Unlimited	146	38	184
W3GQ	Unlimited	132	36	168
W3ZL	Formula	107	27	134
K4ESE*	Unlimited	40	18	58

* All 80 meters

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX King scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.



Win Trophies, Outback Gift Cards, and Certificates in ARRL DX Contest

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The ARRL International DX Contest is just around the corner. The CW contest starts February 17; the phone contest starts March 2. We are again offering great prizes to encourage you to participate and contribute to CDXA's Club Score. Our scores for the last several years are shown below. The last column shows where we ranked among all club entries in the medium cate-

Year	CDXA Score	Number of CDXA Entries	Rank in Medium Club Category
2000	3,547,737	10	24
2001	2,588,943	9	21
2002	3,407,106	13	20
2003	2,014,479	14	19
2004	6,569,034	31	16
2005	7,619,703	32	14
2006	2,747,289	21	18
2007	7,910,718	30	9
2008	11,293,344	43	3
2009	10,157,613	36	7
2010	22,155,432	46	3
2011	26,587,443	47	5

gory for 50 or fewer entries. You can see we fell off a bit in 2011. We want to do better in 2012! To this end, we are offering the following prizes:

1st place prizes – Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift Card. The DXpedition and Multi-op prizes will only be awarded to an entrant whose score is high enough to have won one of the other first prizes:

- Top combined CW plus Phone score
- Top CW score
- Top CW score, low power
- Top Phone score
- Top Phone score, low power
- Top Multi-Op score
- Top DXpedition score
- For 1000 or more QSOs total in the CW and phone contests – Each participant can choose a trophy or a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift Card.
- For 500 or more QSOs total in the CW and phone contests – Each participant gets a photo printed CDXA certificate and a chance in a raffle for a \$25 gift card.
- For 250 or more QSOs – Each participant gets a chance in a raffle for a \$25 gift card.

An individual can win only one prize. Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition (meet the 175 mile criterion) as defined in the contest rules can win a Gift Card or a trophy. These rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. All CDXA members are eligible for the CDXA certificates. Prizes will be based on your claimed score and presented at the Charlotte Hamfest dinner.

Our CW Skimmer and SSB spot sharing network will be running during the CW and SSB contests, respectively. Another article in this Pileup has more information. Please send your score summary (number of QSOs, multipliers, final score) and entry category (single or mutioperator, single band or all band, power level, with or without packet) to w3oa@roadrunner.com as soon as possible after each contest. And tell me if you want a trophy or Outback card if you made over 1000 QSOs in the two contests combined. We will publish your scores on the CDXA web site as we receive them. Because we want to award the prizes at the CDXA dinner on March 10, I need all scores by March 5, sent to me at w3oa@adelphia.net, or call me on (704) 658-0915.

Packet Enhancements During ARRL DX Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The CDXA packet network will have extra capabilities during both the CW and SSB weekends of the ARRL DX Contest. You can take advantage of these capabilities with a Telnet connection to w3oa.no-ip.org.

ARRL DX Contest – CW - The setup for the CW contest will be the same as it was for CQWW last fall with single band Skimmers running at K4DXA, N2TU, and W3GQ and a six band Skimmer at W3OA. Users will be able to get spots from the traditional Packet Cluster system plus spots from Skimmers in different size geographical areas. These areas can be from one Skimmer to one state all the way up to the whole world. An article on page 6 of the November Pileup (<http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1111.pdf>) describes how to do this.

ARRL DX Contest – SSB – The setup for the SSB contest will be the same one we used for CQWW last fall. The idea is for each CDXA member to send a spot for every station he hears to other CDXA members. This is done with a small program that runs on each member's computer. The program looks for callsigns typed into N1MM, and if you are not running stations, the program sends out a spot through a telnet connection to the cluster node at w3oa.no-ip.org. This happens even if you don't work the station. After all, a station that's a dupe for you may be new one for me.

I'll be distributing the program and setting up the node about a week before the contest. If you'd like to participate send me an email now (w3oa@roadrunner.com) and I'll put you on the list to get a copy of the program and detailed instructions. (We will be using the same program we used in CQWW but I still need to send you an updated database to go with it.)

CDXA VHF Contest Team #4 in the USA!

The ARRL recently announced the results of the 2011 ARRL September VHF QSO Party, and the AA4ZZ VHF Contest team was **#4 in the USA in the Limited Multi-Operator class**.

The AA4ZZ team included Ken Boyd, K4DXA; Bill Fisher, W4GRW, Joe Barkley, KI4TZ; Wayne Starnes, KU4V, Dick Williams, W3OA; Paul Sturpe, W3GQ; John Scott, K8YC; Chris Price, WW4CP; and Bill Turner.



Congratulations to the Team, L-R: Joe KI4TZ; Paul W3GQ; Bill W4WNT; Wayne KU4V; Dick W3OA; Chris WW4CP; John, K8YC; Bill W4GRW

In Other VHF News



The Southeastern VHF Society Conference is coming to Charlotte on April 20-21. Speakers will include ARRL president Kay Craigie, and Nobel Prize winning physicist, ham, and creator of WJST, Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT. More information will follow in next month's Pileup.

A Review of the Zero-Five 40 – 10M Ground Plane

Don Daso, K4ZA

Recently, I found myself faced with a client who wanted to return to the airwaves after an absence of over 35 years. While this in itself is not so remarkable (all things considered), what was interesting (all right, troubling) was his home, located in a beautiful neighborhood in Potomac, MD. A tower was out of the question. While there were plentiful old growth trees surrounding his home, only one was actually on his lot. So, some sort of ground-mounted antenna seemed like the only option. Of course, the presence of oodles of grandkids tangling themselves (or worse, according to the client) in radials ended that discussion rather quickly.

It looked like one of the compromise “half-wave” verticals would be the only possible solution. But Norm Jeweler, owner of US Tower Services, had told me about the Zero-Five GP when we chatted at the Orlando Hamfest last February. So, I headed to their website to gather further information. I had seen their products at Dayton, and the construction had impressed me—heavy duty aluminum and nice welds and seemingly solid tubing. The client agreed to the purchase. I suggested I’d buy the antenna, build and install it at my QTH, and then install it at his home if it passed muster.

The box arrived, and I assembled the vertical in about 10 minutes. There were no directions, but each telescoping piece of tubing was marked with a Sharpie or some such inked line. I connected the feedline and headed to the shack, lugging the old Drake MN-2700 tuner along. The client would be using the internal tuner in his FT-950, but I’d be forced to twiddle some knobs on the Drake. Here’s where things get interesting.

Since I live in a heavily restricted neighborhood myself (only four miles from UNCC, where the XYL works), I’ve been relegated to an R-5 or R-7 on the back deck for years. Poor performance is the watchword for me with these antennas. The traps always seem to be affected by the weather, despite my best efforts at waterproofing them. The Zero-Five, being a non-resonant design, suffers nothing, other than requiring me to fool the radio into accepting RF with that tuner. And accept RF it did, and does—now for my MD client.

This antenna truly works, and works well. I had no trouble working lots of DX with it, including cracking some pileups on 40/30, and generating some on 10M a few weeks back when conditions were so good. I was impressed; so much so that I bought one for myself yesterday, when I discovered they were running a “Christmas special” sale.

If you’re forced into an extreme antenna compromise situation (such as CC&Rs, for example), you could do worse than look into the Zero-Five lineup.

73, Don Daso, K4ZA

Welcome to a New Member

Don Schaaf, K3ZXL, of Punta Gorda, FL, recently joined CDXA. When asked why he was joining a club in North Carolina, his response was “Well, we have a couple clubs locally but they do not get involved in DXing. One is a repeater Club essentially and the other is more social than anything else. I attend neither of them and cancelled membership after 1 year. The few DXers around here are basically on their own. Any other DX Club will be far away like in Ft. Lauderdale or in Jacksonville; so, if I am going to join a DX type of club, the distance is irrelevant since I can’t travel to meetings. Therefore, your club which sponsors DXPed and has a nice website and respectable list of members seems like a good one to join. And, if I ever move to NC and live within sight of you, I will already have been a member of the local club, HiHi.”

Welcome, Don! If you do make it to Charlotte, we look forward to meeting you face-to-face.

The Way-Back Machine

Ten years ago in the Pileup:

The 2002 Hamfest was being sponsored by ICOM and Heil Sound, with Bob Heil to be presenting forums. Ten-Tec was planning to attend for the first time in many years to introduce its new rig, the Orion.

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, received a certificate for winning his class in South Carolina in the 2000 CQWW 160M Contest. Joe posted 800 QSO's for 145,875 points, using the WY2000 callsign.

Don Daso, K4ZA, reviewed a new book from Ron Dinkins, AC6V, entitled [DXing 101](#) and subtitled "The Amateur Radio DX Reference Guide." Don concluded that "Ron has covered all the bases! From the new ham to the old guard crowd, there's something for everyone."

John Scott, K8YC, had an article on homebrewing antennas that focused on X beams and Moxons, and their benefits and characteristics.

The Roving Reporter visited the wilds of Terrell to interview Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, who explained that his interest in ham radio started as a kid when a friend discovered an old crystal set in his parents' attic.

Twenty years ago in the Pileup:

Forum topics at the upcoming Hamfest included a talk on 2 meter EME by Dave Blaschke, W5UN, and "Albania on-the-air: ZA1A" by Chip Margelli, K7JA.

A letter of thanks from the president of Lithuania to Roger Burt, N4ZC, was reprinted. In it, Lithuanian President Landsbergis says that Lithuania "...will never forget your dedication in helping us fight for our freedom."

No More CW?

It was five years ago this month that the FCC eliminated the Morse Code requirement for all classes of ham licenses. *In spite of dire concerns that CW would fade away, tuning to the bottom end of any HF band today seems to dispel that notion. Tune a bit higher in the band, and you'll still find QSO's taking place at 5 to 10 wpm.*

Morse Code Jewelry

Speaking of Morse Code, it's not too late to get your Valentine a special necklace (...or for the ladies, to get one for yourself.) There have been a couple of articles recently about Morse Code themed necklaces. CQ Magazine mentioned them a couple of months ago, and the February 2012 edition of Lake Norman Magazine included them in an article on "...gifts, trips, spa recipes." Here's an example, from www.etsy.com, which (as you can probably tell), spells out "love." If you just Google "morse code necklaces", you'll find more examples.



...and More Morse Code

Here's a link to a video of a news story about a "Secret Message" embedded in the façade of an Illinois National Guard Building: http://www.wqad.com/news/wqad-illinois-national-guard-milan-morse-code-secret-message-12162011_0_2308380.story. I don't think most of us would agree with the "...going by the wayside" comment in the video.

CDXA HK0NA Results

HK0NA went QRT on Feb. 5, several days before most of us expected them to. In spite of that, CDXA members made a lot of QSOs with them, and there is a strong consensus that the operating skills of the team members were very good. According to the HK0NA web site, Malpelo Island was #12 on the "most-wanted" list. It will probably fall pretty far down the list with the number of QSOs the team made during the DXpedition. Here's a list, compiled by Dick Williams, W3OA, of CDXA members' number of different band/mode contacts:

K5EK	26	K3ZXL	25
K4XP	25	N4AA	25
W4NL	25	AA4SC	24
KI4TZ	24	W3OA	24
N4ENE	23	W2HTI	23
W3GQ	23	KS4S	22
W6NWS	22	W4HG	21
W7DO	21	K4MU	20
K4MQG	19	AA4R	18
KO4DI	18	N4ZY	18
K3XC	17	K4MK	17
K8YC	17	KZ2I	17
N4HN	16	N4ZC	16
K4CIA	15	AA4V	14
K4BVQ	14	K4KL	14
K8ARY	14	N2BT	14
K2SX	13	W3ZL	13
W4MBD	13	WA4MWX	13
K4GHS	12	K4DGJ	11
NV4A	11	W1AJT	11
N4QVM	10	NK0S	10
W7WZ	10	WA3UTC	10
WA8WV	10	KA4S	9
N4TL	9	NW4N	9
W4NZC	9	WA4DT	9
K4TAG	8	N1GC	8
N2TU	8	N4UFP	8
W4CC	8	W4LM	8
W4RDX	8	W4WNT	8
AF1E	7	KF4NEF	7

KU4BP	7	KU4V	7
N4BH	7	W4CHX	7
W4CWA	7	W4UWC	7
IN3ZNR	6	K1MIJ	6
W4ILC	6	W4UNP	6
WW4DD	6	KN4FO	5
N4JJ	5	N4PQX	5
N8WRL	5	AE4HD	4
K0COP	4	K4ZA	4
N4WMB	4	W4GEH	4
W4UFO	4	AD4IE	3
K4DRV	3	K4IZE	3
K4MD	3	K4PZT	3
K4QO	3	W4AG	3
W4DEE	3	W4ZV	3
IN3QBR	2	K4ESE	2
N1PD	2	N4LQ	2
N4XO	2	W2CDS	2
W4TJE	2	WW4CP	2
AI4YR	1	AJ4JZ	1
K2XX	1	K4FD	1
K4QVK	1	K4WAC	1
K6RM	1	KD4RH	1
KF4TP	1	KY4P	1
N4APR	1	N4AYO	1
N4IZ	1	NA4L	1
W1WW	1	W3NC	1
W4VHF	1	W7LEE	1

The Back Page

Page 1 features information on the upcoming Hamfest. Make sure you mark your calendars for the 10th and 11th of March.

Don't forget to sign up for the Hamfest dinner for the evening of the 10th. There will be some great prizes, in addition to the face-to-face QSOs and good food. Check it out on Page 2.

The 2012 DX King Contest is well underway. See Page 2 for the stats to date. Roger, N4ZC is leading the pack with 255 points (!) as of the end of January.

Don't forget that the ARRL DX Contest is almost here. Adjust your keyers, and check all your antenna connections so you're ready to go on Feb. 17 for the CW weekend. Also read about the enhancements to the packet network for both the CW and Phone portions of the contest.

Check out the article from Don Daso, K4ZA, on Page 5, about an antenna that might help you a lot if you're in an antenna-restricted neighborhood.

HK0NA is now history, but CDXA members racked up an impressive number of contacts with the team there.

Don't forget to look at the possible Valentine's Day present suggestion on Page 6.

...and last, but certainly not least, the CDXA team was #4 in the USA in the Limited Multi-Operator class in the September ARRL VHF contest. Congrats to them!

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.